

Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life

**Held on Friday, January 28, 2005
SGW Campus Hall 769 10:00am**

PRESENT: Mr. K. Pruden, Chair, Ms M. Burns, Secretary, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Ms H. Fussell, Mr. D. Gardhouse, Ms A. Ghadban, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms M. Gruber, Mr. B. Hamideh, Mr. F. Janmohamed, Mr. O. Moran, Ms S. Novembre, Ms K. Sheahan, Ms C. Boujaklian, Mr. J. Brisebois, Mr. W. Curran, Ms K. Hedrich, Ms S. Jones, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms P. Posius, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms A. Beck, Ms D. Fawaz, Dr. N. Howe, Ms A. Reid, Dr. F. Shaver

ABSENT: Mr. K. Fox, Mr. P. Schiefke

GUESTS: Mr. Peter Bolla, Mr. Les Lawton, Ms Linda Healey, Ms Christina Xydous

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pruden asked if anyone objected to moving item 5.1 (Presentation by Peter Bolla) on the agenda to follow item 4.1. Council had no objection. Dr. Graub, seconded by Mr. Cote, made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Pruden welcomed the guests to today's meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF December 3, 2004

Mr. Janmohamed asked that the minutes be amended to read Mr. Janmohamed instead of Ms Janmohamed under item 4.1. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Janmohamed, and seconded by Mr. Hamideh.

The motion was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Graduating Students and loan repayments

Ms Linda Healey explained the types of letters that are issued by the Office of the Registrar. These letters of attestation are issued, upon a student's request, to government agencies (i.e. welfare, immigration, unemployment), scholarship plans, companies, etc. The content contained in the letters must be based on factual information and be consistent with the information that appears on a student's record and the regulations of the university. More information about the changes to the government regulations is needed. While one possibility is to look at

establishing a protocol between the Office of the Registrar and Financial Aid and Awards Offices, further investigation is required as to the consequences of this (government reporting, funding, etc.).

They are looking at the possibility of a graduating student being "considered as equivalent" to full-time in their last semester. Another university is doing this. Students must request a "petitioned status"; however, more details are required. There may be consequences and problems that are specific to Concordia University. Further investigating will take place, and once more information is available, an update will be made to the committee.

4.2 Non-smoking Initiative

Mr. Pruden informed Council that he consulted with Purchasing and determined that it would be financially feasible to put up bulletin boards in strategic places on campus. The next step would be to identify these locations and get approval. Mr. Moran noted that at the last Environmental Health and Safety meeting, a motion was put forward to create a group to examine the smoking policy on campus. The group will include members from Security, Physical Resources, Mr. Moran and others. He stated that there was some concern whether the bulletin boards would affect the esthetics of the buildings, but he feels the benefits far outweigh the concerns. The group will be meeting shortly.

Mr. Hamideh expressed concern that people still smoke in the stairwells. He asked if using security cameras to monitor the stairs would help. Mr. Brisebois noted that security is trying to deal with this by using prevention rather than issue tickets. Smoking in buildings is illegal and the university could be charged as well. He expressed hope that a solution other than issuing fines could be found with the collaboration of student unions and Environmental Health and Safety. Ms Hedrich noted that a fine added to a student's account could be a strong incentive to curb smoking. Mr. Moran stated that signs can be effective, if placed strategically.

Mr. Pruden suggested that once there is a concrete proposal on the table regarding signage and bulletin boards, CCSL could consider what level of financial contribution it would like to make.

4.3 Security Costs and Student Events

Mr. Janmohamad expressed concern that student groups are not part of the decision making process to determine how much security is needed for a student

event. They often get billed after the fact for more than they budgeted for. They have difficulty meeting these extra costs. He felt that communication between student groups and security needs to improve.

Mr. Brisebois stated that, wherever possible, security costs are itemized in advance of an event, as part of the booking process when a student group requests a room. He noted that there are times when extra security is needed if the conditions of an event change; for example, if more people are involved than were originally anticipated.

Ms Drew suggested that the Chair of the Special Projects Committee could remind groups who are applying for funding that they need to budget for security. Often the budgets are submitted well in advance of the event, and over time the details change. Mr. Pruden suggested that there is a communication issue that needs to be addressed. If the event changes, the onus is on the student groups to inform security of the change.

Mr. Hamideh noted that this issue was raised two years ago, and a suggestion was made at that time to offer training sessions to students who could work with Security as volunteers. Mr. Brisebois stated that he was open to this idea. Mr. Hamideh also expressed concern that security guards must be paid for 4 hours, even if the event is only one hour in duration. Mr. Brisebois replied that they have no choice in this matter; this is a requirement of the security company.

Mr. Janmohamed expressed concern that the process of booking was not as efficient as it could be, and asked when the online booking forms would be made available. Ms Posius stated that online forms will be available in September 2005. She noted that although it will help the process, it does not solve the basic problem of lack of available space for student groups.

Mr. Pruden suggested that he and Mr. Janmohamed look at specific cases and then discuss them with Mr. Brisebois. Brisebois informed Council that in 2004 the number of incident reports has gone down considerably. In 1998 there were over 6000 incidents that generated a security report. Last year there were 1660. He stated that many factors were involved, but one of them is good relations between security and student groups, and gave credit to the CSU for this.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 Presentation by Peter Bolla, Executive Director, Facilities Management

Mr. Bolla gave a PowerPoint presentation: Concordia University Real Estate Overview. The presentation outlined current real estate projects, as well as the long-term plans for future development. Following the presentation, Mr. Bolla

answered questions from Council. Mr. Curran asked if there are plans to sell the Faubourg, and if there were plans to construct a tunnel from the McConnell Building to the GM Building. Mr. Bolla replied that there are no plans to sell the Faubourg Tower, and that the university rents classrooms in the old cinema. There is a plan to construct a tunnel from the Guy Metro to the Library Building, which is estimated to happen in 2007 when deMaisonneuve Blvd is redone. Money is still needed for this project.

Ms Posius asked about the benefits of acquiring the TD bank building. Mr. Bolla replied that Concordia will take over three floors of offices in that building. He noted that this is not a very big building, and that it is being donated to the university. The façade will be protected, as it is a heritage building.

Mr. Moran asked if there were environmental objectives for the new buildings. Mr. Bolla stated that, like the Renaud Building at Loyola, environmental factors are being considered in all new buildings. There are initiatives being implemented that can save 30-35% energy consumption. One such initiative is a method of controlling air systems through movement.

Mr. Janmohamad asked if there were plans to expand the Webster Library. Mr. Bolla informed Council that the university is considering this as a project that could happen in 2006. It is in the conceptual stage at the moment, and there are many implications as it involves several academic areas and services.

Ms Posius asked who will be occupying the 11th and 12th floor of the Hall Building. Mr. Bolla replied that it will be the Geography, Political Science and Economics Departments. There are no plans to sell the annexes on Mackay Street.

Mr. Janmohamed asked whether there are plans for increased Residence housing for students. Mr. Bolla indicated that there are now 147 beds at Loyola, and the Jesuit building provides an additional 52 beds. The consensus is that 1000 beds are needed on the downtown campus. The university is actively looking for housing possibilities, but has not succeeded thus far. The current real estate market makes it difficult, as everything is very expensive right now.

Mr. Janmohamad asked if there was a realistic timeline for the proposed Student Centre building, and who will occupy this building. Mr. Bolla replied that this building is in the early conceptual stage right now, and that he will provide more details as soon as they become available.

Mr. Pruden thanked Mr. Bolla for a very interesting presentation.

5.2 Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank Interim Report 2004-2005

Ms Christina Xydous distributed copies of the report to Council. She spoke briefly to the report, noting that over the past year the activities and efforts in housing have been very successful. She stated that now their focus should be on the job bank, to improve efficacy in that area. She noted that there was an increase of 28.1% in the number of new job ads compared to last year. However, there is still room for improvement. They are currently working on a publicity campaign to target potential employers. They are also implementing a poster campaign on campus and are exploring other methods to let students know about the Job Bank. They are also working on making improvements to the website, making it easier for potential employers to post job ads. This will be online by the end of February 2005. Ms Xydous informed Council that the volume of people visiting the office has decreased, but the number of emails increased by 104%. This is an indication of the direction in which they are going in terms of online services.

Mr. Pruden thanked Ms Xydous for the report, and asked Council to please look at the report in depth, and the item will be first on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Mr. Moran felt that the issue of health is very important to student life, and that Council should explore the idea of a student health initiative. He asked whether CCSL would be an appropriate place to look at this, and whether there is a role for this group to do something pro-active. Mr. Pruden brought up the alcohol and drug task force. He noted that this committee exists, but hasn't met for a long time. He suggested that it might be valuable to create a permanent body that would consider student health issues more broadly and which would absorb the alcohol and drug task force. Ms Drew stated that she would support the creation of such a committee. She noted a need for a broad reaching and broad based look at a healthy campus, with impact on the whole campus, not just students. She suggested that participants of the drug and alcohol task force could sit on this new committee. Mr. Brisebois also supported the idea of such a committee, and noted that in 2004 security found themselves dealing with incidents of illness more than any other. Dr. Graub supported this idea as well, adding that the current nomenclature is a "caring campus". This can contribute to better morale and productivity. Mr. Pruden suggested that he and Mr. Moran meet to consider the creation of a broader committee, and will report to council at next meeting.

Mr. Curran informed Council that the Library will be open for study on February 25, the Rector's Holiday, and it will be open for study throughout the Easter break. He offered to provide a summary report to Council that

has been submitted to Vice-President Services and the Provost, outlining the needs of the Webster library. Mr. Pruden invited Mr. Curran to submit the report to Council and it would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms Lipscombe announced that she wished to congratulate the CSU for their tremendous fundraising efforts surrounding the recent Tsunami tragedy.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Next Meeting: March 4, 2005 Loyola Campus Ad 308 10am

9. Termination of Meeting

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Hamideh and seconded by Ms Sheahan.

The motion was carried unanimously